

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 748

By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Tommy and Grace Tomkins on receiving the 2008 Stellar Tribute Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens, who through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy couple is Tommy and Grace Tomkins, who are the recipients of the 2008 Stellar Tribute Award, a prestigious award given by the Sumner Foundation to those outstanding individuals who give freely of their time and talents to make significant contributions to their communities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Charles R. Tomkins III (Tommy) began his lifelong commitment to community service during childhood when he was a Boy Scout, eventually reaching the prominent rank of Eagle Scout; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from North Carolina State University, Mr. Tomkins began his illustrious career at Cresent Manufacturing, rising through the ranks of the company to achieve the position of CEO of Cresent Enterprises; and

WHEREAS, Tommy Tomkins has bravely served his country and his state as a Sergeant in the Tennessee Air National Guard; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tomkins has donated his valuable talents to service on the Board of Directors of First Federal Savings and Loan of Gallatin, First and Peoples National Bank, and Farmers and Merchants Bank of Bethpage; and

WHEREAS, he has also selflessly shared his wisdom and experience as an advisory director of First American National Bank, Amsouth of Middle Tennessee, and currently holds a position on the Middle Tennessee Regions Bank Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, Tommy's remarkable professional contributions include service on the Board of Directors of the American Furniture Manufacturers Association, the International Woodworking Fair, and the Furniture Foundation; he has also worked assiduously on various committees of the second largest trade show in the world for the woodworking industry, the International Woodworking Fair, including the Finance and Executive Committees, and is the current Chairman of the Fair; and

WHEREAS, Tommy Tomkins is an exceptional individual whose dedication and support are peerless; and

WHEREAS, Grace Alethia Austin Tomkins's everlasting commitment to community service is comparable to her husband's; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from the University of Kentucky, Grace Tomkins spent two years in market research for Proctor and Gamble before becoming a youth ministry director at First Presbyterian Church in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, after Tommy and she were married, Grace admirably decided to make volunteering her vocation; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Tomkins's previous civic contributions include, a founding membership in the Sumner Foundation, which she still serves on the Board and Executive Committees; founding membership in the Gallatin Area Soccer League, of which she was commissioner; membership in the first graduating class of Leadership Sumner; a four-year term on The Gallatin Chamber of Commerce's Board; several board terms for United Way of Sumner County; vice-chair of the Gallatin Bicentennial Committee; board chair of the Sumner County YMCA; President of SRMC's Volunteer Auxiliary; former board chair and founding member of Sumner Academy; former chair of the Gallatin Chapter of the March of Dimes; and membership on the Tennessee 3-Star Committee; and

WHEREAS, today, Grace Tomkins finds time to lend her amazing talents to such notable causes as volunteer work at Sumner Regional Medical Center (SRMC), a commitment she has made for the past 35 years, board member of Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System, Vice-Chair of SRMC's Board, board member for YMCA Foundation of Middle Tennessee, founding member of the Friends of the Gallatin Public Library, Junior Service

League of Gallatin Board, and founding member and current vice-chair of the Tennessee Council of Volunteers for Region 2; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Tomkins is the deserving recipient of numerous awards and honors, including Volunteer of the Year for The United Way, YMCA, Sumner County March of Dimes, Order of the Horse - Sumner County and Tennessee Network of Volunteer Administrators Healthcare, *Gallatin News Examiner's* Citizen of the Year, Sertoma Service to Mankind, Tennessee Board of Regents Excellence in Philanthropy, Silver Quill Award, and Sumner Regional Health System's Leon Shoulders Distinguished Service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Tomkins have combined their philanthropic efforts to support the Volunteer State College Foundation and financially contribute to a large number of other worthy organizations that provide education, social services, healthcare, and for the general betterment of the community; and

WHEREAS, in addition to their community service and volunteer work, the Tomkins are also active and devout members of Gallatin First United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, their awards and accomplishments aside, Tommy and Grace are most grateful for the love and companionship they share with each other and with their children, Charles Richard Tomkins IV and Courtenay Austin Tomkins; and

WHEREAS, Tommy and Grace Tomkins truly epitomize the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Tomkins will be formally honored with the Stellar Tribute Award at the 2008 Starlight Gala and Stellar Tribute Award celebration on Saturday, April 5, 2008; the event is hosted by the Sumner Foundation, the philanthropic portion of Sumner Regional Health Systems, with proceeds from the gala benefiting Sumner Hospice; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Tommy and Grace Tomkins for their dedication to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Tommy and Grace Tomkins for their

meritorious service to the state of Tennessee and on receiving the 2008 Stellar Tribute Award and extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.